WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 OCTOBER 1988

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

NEW WASHTENAW COUNTY ILLUSTRATED HISTORY BY RUTH BORDIN AVAILABLE IN BOOK STORES

The new history of Washtenaw County, published in cooperation with Washtenaw County Historical Society, debuted at the annual meeting in May and its author, Ruth Bordin, spoke briefly.

Washtenaw County: An Illustrated History published by Windsor Publications of Northridge, California, contains more than 200 illustrations, two dozen in color, in its 192 pages. It is available in local bookstores.

Mrs. Bordin's lively narrative "chronicles the people and events that have transformed Washtenaw County from a modest agricultural community into a world-class educational center."

Some Washtenaw County businesses and organizations are highlighted in the chapter, "Partner's in Progress," by Margo MacInnes and Joan H. Kmenta.

WCHS has its own page there with a brief history and pictures of the board of directors and the Society's locally-made Allmendinger organ that is on display at Kempf House.

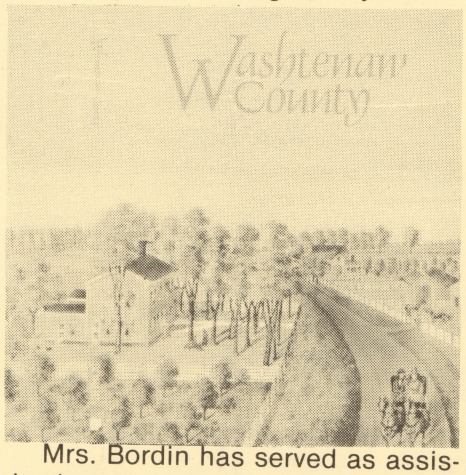
The colorful dust jacket features a lithograph of the home of Sidney Harwood from the 1874 county atlas. He was the son of William Harwood, one of the founders of Ypsilanti. (Sidney's grandson Webb Harwood and his wife still live in the house on Michigan Avenue (US-12) in Pittsfield township).

"I'm a social historian by trade so I'm interested in people and how they operate together. I think there's often a tendency in our county for Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan to try to be the dog and tail and just about anything else," Mrs. Bordin said.

"I, myself, have the warmest affection for the southern townships with that marvelous, diversified, rich, beautiful agriculture that still exists down there.

"I taught at Eastern (Michigan University) for about 15 years so I'm well aware of the importance of old Michigan Normal in terms of the educational resources of this nation. I hope what we have come out with is a balanced job.

"One has to be very brave to try to do this sort of thing because every one of you could say 'but you can't write a history of Washtenaw County without _____' but I hope that all of you find something that pleases you and enlightens you."



Mrs. Bordin has served as assistant curator of the Michigan Historical Collections at the U-M's Bentley Library and as a consultant there. She is also the author of a pictorial history of the U-M and a biography of Frances Willard.

Ms. MacInnes is president of MacInnes and Associates, Inc., a writing, photography and graphic design firm. Ms. Kmenta is a writing and communications consultant.

For those with a thirst for more, a longer, fully annotated version of the text, in manuscript form, has been deposited in the Michigan Historical Collections at UM's Bentley Library.

WCHS 1988-89 SCHEDULE

WCHS meetings have been tentatively scheduled on the third Sunday except for the annual potluck dinner meeting Wednesday, May 17. No meeting was scheduled in September or December.

Tentative dates are October 16, November 20, January 15, February 19, March 19, and April 16. November through February meetings are planned at Bentley Library. Please mark your calendar.

WCHS AUDIENCE TO TRY ITS OWN 'WHAT IS IT?' GAME OCTOBER 6

WCHS has two traveling exhibits of artifacts with accompanying multiple choice "What is it?" quizzes which it offers to schools and organizations as a fun way to learn about earlier times.

At the first fall meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 16, Karen O'Neal, traveling exhibit chairman, will present the exhibits as she does to schools. The audience will get to take quizzes and then discuss the answers.

As we all know, in a multiple choice quiz the right answer is there along with others which may seem plausible. WCHS's also has some humorous choices such as "It is: 1. plum pudding mold, 2. Annie Oakley's hatbox?

The meeting will be at Dixboro Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 5221 Church Road, one block north of the blinker light at Plymouth and Cherry Hill Roads.

It is open to the public free of charge.

SCHWABENS, SCHOOL GET 100-YEAR CERTIFICATES

Anniversary certificates were given this summer to the Ann Arbor Schwaben Verein and Dixboro's one-room brick schoolhouse, both 100 years old.

Alice Ziegler, certificate chairman, presdented the first at the German fraternal organizaton's gala dinner dance at Webers June 4. Arthur French, a WCHS director, is president of that group.

President Patrick Owen presented the second at the Dixboro Festival August 27. The school is now owned and preserved by Dixboro United Methodist Church.

Hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS for milestone anniversaries. More information: 663-8826. If readers know of such anniversaries coming up, please let us know.

WALLED FORT WITH MOAT NOT SO FAR AWAY

Walled forts with moats suggest long ago times and faraway places.

A lot of people may not realize there is one here in southeast Michigan less than an hour away from Ann Arbor.

Washtenaw County Historical Society visited Detroit's historic Fort Wayne June 11 on a tour that also included an inside look at the 1927 Guardian Building in downtown Detroit and a ride on the new downtown People Mover.

In the absence of our scheduled guide who had a death in the family, Dr. William Phenix, curator of the fort which is a unit of the Detroit Historical Museum, led our walking tour.

"We are going down into the moat—the Army usually calls it the ditch. Its a dry moat, common to inland forts.

"In an attack, troops would come over this earthworks, called a glacis or counterslope, down into the moat and try to get in the door which is called the sally port.

"Almost all the terms you see in military architecture are French because the French were the 'state of the art' builders in those days.

"The sally port was the only way to get into the fort. If enemy troops poured down into the ditch, they would try to attack the doorway and break it open. But they would come under crossfire from rifle slits and cannon in the embrasures in either direction from the door. And there would be no place to hide.

The cannon there are anti-personnel howitzers, he explained. They are filled with what today would be the equivalent of cannon buck shot, lead balls maybe an inch in diameter, weighing an ounce or two.

"In desperation sometimes gunners would fill them with glass and buttons and nails. They are meant to fire against troops, not batter down walls.

"There are other types of cannon which, of course, could be used to batter down the walls. As a matter of fact that is why the earthworks is as high as it is. Cannon fire couldn't hit this fort from any side because it was sunk down into the ground.

"It is protected by this great earthen ring or counterslopes. The fort walls are twenty-two feet high and about eight feet thick.

Tour Chairman Esther Warzynski and WCHS President Patrick Owen by the postern (exit) from Detroit's Fort Wayne.

"If we did have scaling ladders, put them up and got to the top, we'd find there is another ditch on the other side of that wall which we'd have to jump into and clamber up another slope.

"Amost everything about forts was done with a logical reason. Military architecture is a fairly complicated subject. Everything has a purpose."

"We are about to enter the fort. Unfortunately we come across these (original) doors which weigh a ton. They are built of alternating layers of wood. One layers goes this way, the next layer goes the other way so you can't chop through them. You'd be going against the grain all the time.

"On top of that there are iron studs driven in every so many inches so you'd dull your axe if you had the time to stand up and chop this open while you are being decimated by enemy fire.

"There would be people firing muskets at you from the rifle slits above. The only way to open these doors would be to place a charge of dynamite against them and blow them open. Somebody would have to come up here and lay the charge and light it and blow it open.

"If you blew it open and you came rushing in, you come to another set of doors. Unfortunately these doors do not open inward.

"They are built so they are set into the fabric of the fort. There is no way you could push them in. There is no dynamite in the world that will blow a door out.

Dr. Phenix led us up a short circular stair to the dark, cool gallery.

"On the floor in front of you is a wrought iron ring. There is one for each gun. The guns were not mounted during the Civil War. They were big 20-pound howitzers that would sit on a wooden carriage.

"The wheels would run on these circular tracks which would allow them to turn. You can peek and see that the gun is pointed directly down the moat.

"The gun would be loaded from the front and run forward on a wooden track so it rested right in the embrasure here and then fired. It would recoil back. They would clean it out, swab it, load it again and run it forward.

"It made a tremendous amount of noise as you can imagine. Most gunners were deaf by the time they got out of the army. Also they used black powder so the room would have been filled with gray smoke.

"The Army built two openings in the gallery, one to bring the prevailing winds from the river down into this casemate and another to take smoke back out.

"That is why you have vaulted ceilings instead of square ceilings—so

OLD 500-MAN FORT WAYNE BARRACKS
"Finest example of military architecture west of the Alleghenies."

smoke won't linger anywhere. Most of the brickwork in the gallery is original, done in the 1860s with local brick."

(The fort was strategically located at the narrowest point on the Detroit River. Construction began in the 1840s. By the 1870s walled forts were becoming obsolete.

(Over the years many changes and additions have been made to adapt it to more modern uses. Many soldiers have been through Fort Wayne but never a shot has been fired in anger across the river).

"Up on the ramparts are limestore slabs quarried on Kelley's Island in Lake Erie and dragged here to build what is called the breast-high wall. If you walked around there you would see initials of men on sentry duty through the years and the name of their regiment.

The narrow rifle slits were made to accommodate the long-barreled guns of the time. There were four cannon galleries and eight rifle slits in the one casemate or chamber over the entrance.

"The gallery runs about 20 feet and ends in a room with no slit. That's where they stored the powder and where they would have put the wounded in a battle."

Back down in the vaulted tunnel, Dr. Phenix noted, "They wanted to make it hard for everybody to get in as you can see. This was the only way into the fort. There is a second tunnel leading from the river ditch."

"There are eight galleries in the fort, two at each corner. The rest you have to climb up and down stairways into them. This is the only one on the level."

All the food and produce was purchased in Detroit and brought in on wagons through the sally port. Dr. Phenix pointed out where the wagon wheels wore off a corner as they came in.

The group continued through the tunnel onto the parade ground, sometimes called the compound, where the troops drilled. He pointed out the counterslope and breast high limestone wall supported by iron inside the fort.

He also pointed out the little white structures that are the other openings into casemates.

"When you get in here you lose the concept that you are in a city. You don't get any city noises in here. If these Boy Scouts weren't here it would be absolutely silent. Its a wonderful place in the evening. Luckily there is no one here but me and my wife.

"We have two cannons on display—a six-pounder taken at Vicksburg and a twelve-pounder from the Mexican War. We traded a Confederate gun for the latter which was also used in the Civil War. We fire them twice a day.

"When we open the fort in May we have a gigantic Civil War Day in which hundreds of people in Union and Confederate uniforms camp, give demonstrations and perform battle tactics. Women set up cooking demonstrations.

"Straight ahead, is the powder magazine, a little building made of stone set into the earth. That's where all the powder and explosives for the fort were stored.

"It's set into the earth so, if there was an explosion, the charge would go upward instead of outward. It has a very thin wooden roof on it. The purpose of that is so that if there is a blast or explosion or spark, it wouldn't come out on the parade ground.

"The men who worked there had to take off their shoes and put bags over their feet so that no sparks would ever fly in there. They also had to take off their swords. Obviously there were no lanterns in there. Some powder magazines have carpeting so troops would not stir up an unfortunate spark.

"The barracks is a wonderful example of military architecture. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings as the finest example of military architecture west of the Allegheny Mountains.

"It is built of Lake Erie limestone quarried on Kelleys Island and dragged here on barges. It is built in what is called Georgian Federal style.

"It housed 500 men, 100 men in each bay, normally the equivalent of an infantry regiment. There was a mess hall on the bottom floor of each bay with barracks in the two floors above.

"The building is really 3½ stories. In the top half-story were little garrets, small rooms with fire places where the non-commissioned officers lived.

"We have changed it in the interior to depict the history of Michigan's miltary achievements, especially Detroit, from the coming of the French in 1701 through the Indian wars.

Two staff members dressed in Civil War uniforms were manning the cannons. Bill was wearing a fatique uniform of a sergeant of artillery.

The artillery men wore the same as everyone else except their colors traditionally were red, their stripes were red and, on their dress uniforms, piping around collars and cuffs were red, also stripes on officer's hats. Artillerymen had crossed cannons on their caps.

"Unfortunately, he has a cavalry sword—they had a distinct artillery sword—and he's wearing a non-com belt buckle. The uniforms are of heavy wool called kersey and uncomfortable in hot weather.

"We require the staff to dress as they did then. It's all cotton linen or wool, no synthethics."

Jamey was dressed as an infantryman. "As the war progressed, they didn't dress as snappily as they did when it started. They became much more practical. Jamey probably looks more like the Army of Tennessee whereas Bill might be from the Army of the Potomac. They were a little more spit-and-polish in the eastern theater.

"By the middle of the war, soldiers

had begun to discard their knapsacks and other things the Army impeded them with. They rolled their blankets and other belongings in what is called a gun blanket or a waterproof ground cloth.

"Jamey is dressed for action. He has a canteen, a cartridge box, a percussion cap box, a bayonet, a cup. He is wearing square-toed Jefferson type shoes. The Army had just begun in the nineteenth century, to make left and right shoes.

"Cannons are usually called after the weight of the solid balls they fire, as a six-pounder or twelve-pounder. They also fire hollow shot."

Before entering the barracks, the group witnessed the Boy Scouts flag raising ceremony with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

One of the five former mess halls on the main floor of the barracks has been restored as a mess hall. "The Army supplied the food, the regiment furnished its own cooks. The men ate in shifts."

"They ate well—the food was plentiful—but it wasn't good. The Army contracted with people to furnish it. The contractors could make more money if they bought cheap food, so the meat was sometimes tainted."

Three other former mess halls are used to tell some of the military history of Detroit. In the one we first entered, two women staffers, Erica and Kristen, demonstrated preparation of wool and flax for spinning.

Originally all the floors were parquet brick. Floors in the vestibules and the mess hall still are.

A log in the room came from Chickamauga battlefield. It still has shot embedded in it. "We'd put it somewhere else but we can't get it up the stairs."

"It will show you the size of a cannon ball and what it does to a tree. Cannon was the most deadly of fire in the Civil War. It decimated people terribly.

"Wounds were normally from the waist up in the Civil War because they had to load their muskets standing. They didn't have breech loading muskets until much later.

"They had to pour the powder down the barrel and ram it down.

"So all the wounds are in elbows, heads, chest, stomach. You didn't get leg injuries as much unless some fool—this was not uncommon—some soldiers tried to stop a cannon ball bouncing across a field.

Restored 1880 commanding officer's house.

They look kind of harmless, but they're not, and he would be minus a leg.

"The last Union veteran died in 1956, the last Confederate maybe 1960. There were drummer boys, probably age 13 or 14 when they entered service. Michigan raised 33 regiments for the Civil War, several in Washtenaw, five regiments of cavalry and a couple of artillery, so Michigan's contribution was very big.

"I'm carding wool right now," one of the women said. "You have to card wool to remove all the tangles and knots. The more tangles and knots, the harder it is to spin. I've been carding this most of the morning so it is about ready."

She removed the wool from the card and started to spin. "Pinch out the wool as it spins. You can get many different widths from heavy yarn to fine thread."

"Once you are done spinning the yarn, it has a tendency to coil up, You can't knit very well if your yarn is coiling up so you have to put it on the "nitty-noddy" or weasel.

"You wrap the yarn around the weasel, leave it on for a couple of days, and when you take it off it will be nice and straight and easy to work with."

"When you get flax from the field its like straw or hay. You can't do much with it. The husk is still on it. You have to use the flax break to remove the husk. You do that by just pounding on it—bang, bang, bang. The longer you pound the more husk you remove.

"Eventually you'll have enough husk removed so you can use the hatchel to comb through the flax and remove the rest of the husk and most of the tangles. Eventually you will get it down to a fine enough state where it's called "tow'.

"Ever hear of tow-headed children? It refers to the light color of a tow of flax.

"Once you get it down into a fine state, take one or two strands and put it on a spinning wheel and spin it into thread which you can put on your loom and weave those nice linen tablecloths.

"When spinning with flax you want to use a little bit of water. Flax has a substance in it that, when mixed with water, binds the fibers together and makes a very strong material. It was also used for making rope," she said.

The next room told the story of Detroit and the French. "Most artifacts here are not original. There are very few artifacts left from the French period," Dr. Phenix said.

"The muskets and swords are original. the 1741 and 1763 muskets were used in the French and Indian War.

There was a uniform of a French marine like those worn at the time of Cadillac's landing at Detroit in 1701 and a model of Detroit as it was supposed to have looked about 1710.

The model, done for the Pontchartrain Hotel, was not well researched, Dr. Phenix said. French buildings did not have flat roofs on them and Indians here did not live in western tepees. There is a much better model of British Detroit in the next room.

"Fort Pontchartrain was built very close to Jefferson Avenue where the Pontchartrain Hotel is, to about Mariner's Church. That was the old town of Detroit. The Detroit River came right up to about Jefferson Avenue. Hart Plaza and the RenCen are all built on landfill.

After 60 years of French rule in Detroit, the British took over until 1796 when it became American.

"Each of those cultures made their impact on the city, so it is one of the most impossible cities to get around in the world. It was laid out with French ribbon farms, the British used a grid pattern and then Judge Woodward had his grand scheme of turning it into a kind of Washington, D.C., of the midwest. You have that great circular road that starts on this end of the river and you drive all through Detroit and you end up three miles down the river. West and East Grand Boulevard go nowhere except into the river. But its an interesting town and it would help you get around

Paris better than those people from Iowa.

"The British did not make much of an impact on Detroit. They were here for the American Revolution, of course. This became a great staging area for Indian raids against the western borders of the 13 colonies.

"It was a station for British troops and Tory loyalists and thousands of Indians.

The British room tells the story of the coming of the British in 1760, of Robert Rogers accepting the surrender of the French, of Pontiac's rebellion in 1763-64 and the American seizure of Detroit.

An original commission of a French lieutenant in the British militia is among the documents that record some of the events. There are reproduction British uniforms on display.

"Actually no British soldier would look like that, at least very often, out here. Their uniform eventually shredded and they began to wear leggings and moccasins."

A piece of the old British fort built in Detroit is on display. It was called Fort Lernoult after the Swiss officer that built it. It was built at about Fort Street and Shelby. The Comerica Bank is there today and the Penobscot Building a block down.

"When they excavated the Penobscot Building foundations in 1927, they found one of the corner bastions of the old fort so we have some of the dirty wood. It stood up on a hill, the town was down on the river.

They have a "museum quality" model of Fort Lernoult, with miniature troops marching down the road, all hand done.

The fort sat there until 1825 when it fell into disrepair. Americans had renamed it Fort Shelby. Another fort did not come to Detroit until Fort Wayne was built in the 1840s.

After Anthony Wayne defeated the Indians in the Battle of Fallen Timbers near Toledo and later marched on Detroit in 1796, the British left and went across the river. They established the small town of Sandwich which later became Windsor.

The next gallery was about the Americans coming to Detroit and the War of 1812 period, when the British came back and captured Detroit. Reproduction uniforms are on display. Very little clothing is left from 1812. The display included an original drum, drum sticks and bullet pouch.

The military history display continues on the second floor of the barracks, but time ran short. The tour paused outdoors to see the blacksmith making tent stakes in a shop with mostly original equipment.

Tourgoers then headed out to the garrison area through a gate cut in 1939 by the Army when war was threatening. They wanted to get trucks in there. At one time there was a bridge going over the moat leading to the garrison area.

The garrison area is where officers and non-commissioned officers lived. There was housing for married officers and bachelor officers and a hospital.

FORT, CITY CONFUSED

The name "Fort Wayne" can be confused in this area. When tour chairman Esther Warzynski asked the bus driver if she was going to Fort Wayne, the driver said, "No. I'm going to Detroit."

She, like most people around here think of a city in Indiana, not a military installation in Detroit, Michigan, when you say "Fort Wayne."

Both city and fort were named for General "Mad Anthony" Wayne a hero after he won the Battle of Fallen Timbers near Toledo in 1794 and effectively opened up the Northwest Territory to American white settlement.

There were over 1,000 officers and men stationed here normally throughout the period of 1860-1900s. All the old infantry regiments of the U.S. Army were stationed at Fort Wayne at one time or another, before going off to China, the Philippines or wherever, Dr. Phenix said.

For lack of time, the tour walked by the Indian museum direct to the restored commanding officer's house in the middle of "officers' row", a row of houses facing the parade ground and river.

"The houses were fairly nice, with 14 foot ceilings, fire places, maid's quarters. They were all wooden until the Army modernized and bricked them up back in 1933-39. They were once Victorian houses. The Army made them into center-entrance colonials.

Back in 1971 when the Detroit Historical Museum took possession of the fort, the commanding officer's house had been badly burned. The upstairs john had fallen down into the kitchen. It was badly vandalized. They decided to restore it to the way it was in 1880 when they were built.

They stripped all the bricks off, expecting to find siding but there wasn't any "so we literally started from scratch."

"We wanted to restore it to about 1885, actually, when it was inhabited by a man named Colonel Henry Klitz who was commander of the Tenth Infantry Regiment. He and his mother and sister lived here. He was a native Detroiter. He served in the Mexican War and Civil War.

"The houses only cost $3,500 to build in the first place. It cost roughly $275,000 to restore the house to the way it looked on the outside. Then we had to go inside and do the interior which cost roughly another $275,000.

"We have spent more than half a million dollars. It's probably one of the finest Victorian restorations in America. The Colonial Dames of America adopted it and raised money to acquire furniture, decorations and artifacts that would reflect the style of an Army colonel in the 1800s.

"They drew on our very extensive furniture collection in the Detroit Historical Museum. They went out and bought other things.

"The Army left a lot of plans for this house. We have a lot of photographs of it. So we were able to recreate it almost identical to the way it was.

"The Colonel left an inventory of his equipment so we know pretty much what he had when he lived here. He served until 1885 when he resigned from the Army because of age.

"He had been a very active man and he became despondent living in Detroit. They had moved downtown somewhere near Grand Circus Park. One day he announced that he was going out for a walk and he never came back.

He was reported to have been seen in Niagara Falls. He booked a room on the American side of the falls. The last anyone saw of him he was standing looking down at Horseshoe Falls. Apparently he committed suicide."

Dr. Phenix led us to the front vestibule. Gesturing at the open parade ground extending to the river, he said there was a giant warehouse there in 1978 with a lot of blacktop area.

"We tore all that out and restored the parade ground to what it once was in the heyday of the Army. That was where the troops drilled. There

was a concert there every Sunday.

"A lot of things in the house are reproductions, like the Axminster and broadloom carpeting," he said. "We haven't finished all the rooms upstairs yet but you can go up and look at the maid's quarters and bathroom. We have restored it with an old pull chain toilet.

"We had a tough time finding curtains. Some are Laura Ashley. We are still looking for some things. In some rooms there were chandeliers. We haven't been able to find any gas chandeliers and we really don't want to electrify many. They did find one oil lamp chandelier.

The group was then at leisure to look in every room and feast their eyes on Victoriana—from marble top tables and dressers to hair wreaths and steropticons before taking the bus back to the visitors center for lunch in the "mess hall."

After lunch the tour headed downtown to the 1927 Guardian Building, now Michigan Consolidated Gas Company headquarters, and finished with a ride on the new People Mover around downtown, Greektown and the riverfront Ren-Cen (Renaissance Center) area.

The Guardian Building was featured in cover stories in the May-June 1988 issues of both *Michigan History* and the *Chronicle* published by the Historical Society of Michigan. The latter article was by WCHS's new president Patrick Owen and his wife, Sally Kelley-Owen.

DIXBORO—VILLAGE WITH A SEA CAPTAIN AND A GHOST IN ITS PAST

A sea captain and a ghost figure in the story of Dixboro related by Carol Willits Freeman at the WCHS annual meeting.

Mrs. Freeman, author of *Of Dixboro: Lest We Forget,* said that Captain John Dix who had been a sea captain, was still in his twenties when he came here from Littleton, Massachusetts, near Boston in April 1824, the same year Ann Arbor was founded.

"Dix bought 469 acres of land, built his house and prepared to establish the town of Dixboro. In 1825 he returned to Massachusetts, married and brought his bride and some friends back to Dixboro.

That year he built a sawmill, and in 1826, a grist mill just south of the village. He also had a store and post office in part of his home.

"But in 1833, apparently because Dixboro hadn't grown as fast as Dix hoped, he sold all his property to James P. Clements and moved his family to Texas where he became a judge.

"The little red schoolhouse on the village green was built in 1888. We are going to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary August 27.

"Bricklayers from Ann Arbor came out each morning in a two-wheel cart pulled by one horse. The new school, was finished in time for school in the fall. It cost $1,200.

"That may seem unbelievable but remember the construction consisted mainly in laying up the bricks, adding windows and roof, complete with bell and belfry and plastering the walls.

"No water, furnace, electricity, plumbing or carpeting was installed. A pump in the corner of the school yeard, a stove in the center of the room, kerosene lamps for evening entertainment, blackboards and a little box of chalk, a granite wash basin and a roller towel, a water pail and dipper, outside toilets, a broom and dust pan were amply sufficient for the needs of a country school.

"The original part of the church was built in 1858. In the early 1920s a basement was dug out under the original building so a furnace could be installed and a kitchen and dining room.

"By 1926 the first chicken dinners after University of Michigan football games were served. The last dinners were served in 1962.

"Back in the 1800s there were saw mills, grist mill, inns, taverns, stage stops and a post office in Dixboro. The charge for sending a letter then was decided by its weight. The average letter cost 25 cents.

"The average charge for a meal was fifty cents. It ususally consisted of fried pork, boiled potatoes, bread and butter and tea. It was often the same menu for all three meals.

"Dixboro also had a chair factory, a building where wooden washing machines were made, two creameries, two threshing machine rigs, apple cider mill, a sawmill run by a steam engine and a crate factory in conjuction with a sawmill. All these disappeared long ago.

"Dixboro has grown. When we were married in 1932 my husband declared there were 75 good souls living in Dixboro. In 1951 forty houses were built in Dixboro Heights just west. Recently Tanglewood subdivision started, north of the intersection of Plymouth and Ford Roads.

"Paving Plymouth Road in 1924-25 changed Dixboro from a small quiet, village with one main sandy road running through it to a busy little village with what we thought was a lot of traffic. When electricity came in 1919 there was a big change too.

"The paving was done with the help of convict labor. They were a jolly bunch who laughed and kidded each other. If you asked them what they were serving time for, they laughed and said 'bootlegging' which was probably true.

"One of the ladies here in Dixboro often watched them from her window, and concluded that certainly much more could be accomplished if the men (some of the men didn't look much more than 18) worked harder.

"One day, when she went out to the mailbox, she stopped and spoke to one of the men. 'If you men worked a little harder you could get this road done a lot quicker.'

"The man laughed and replied, 'Lady, I've got 20 years to get this road paved.'

"Dixboro really got on the map when Martha Mulholland was murdered by her brother-in-law in 1845. He planned to get all her property since her husband had died.

"The fall after her death a carpenter traveling through Dixboro lost a wheel off his wagon and sought a lodging place for the night. When he saw that there was a house which had not been finished he applied for the job of finishing it and he stayed for two years.

"He rented the house where Martha had lived and he saw the ghost on seven occasions. He swore to this before a justice of the peace in Ann Arbor.

"Printed accounts appeared in newspapers throughout this area and even as far away as Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Copies of *Of Dixboro: Lest We Forget* are available from the author at 662-1854.

KEMPF HOUSE NOW STATE, NATIONAL LANDMARK

Kempf House Center for Local History has been designated a state and national landmark. A state historic marker and National Historic Places plaque were dedicated September 25 in ceremonies presided over by John Swainson, chairman of the Michigan Historical Commission.

Kempf House has received two Ann Arbor Area Foundation grants for lighting and a drawing of the garden to be hung in the house. Charles Cares, U-M professor emeritus of landscape architecture, has drawn a plan for facade and security lighting to be installed. The grant will also fund an antique ceiling fixture for the sitting room.

Scott Kunst, local expert on old-fashioned gardens, will draw the garden. The city recently extended the picket fence full length on the north and painted it.

SALINE ELECTS ELMORE

Deborah Elmore is new president of the Saline Historical Society. Wayne CLements is vice-president, Winifred Houle, corresponding secretary and Linnea Widmayer, treasurer. Dorie Bable and Eric Grossman are on the board and Alberta Rogers is immediate past-president. A recording secretary remains to be named.

OLD HOUSE CLINICS SET

The final two old house clinics on insulation and holiday decorations will be held 2 p.m. Sundays October 9 and November 13, respectively, at Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road.

They are sponsored by the Ann Arbor Preservation Alliance. Presenters are Farmer's Insulation, Inc., and Nancy's, The Enchanted Florist. Attendance limited, fee $3. Information: 665-2112.

MHS RE-ELECTS PARR

Howard Parr has been re-elected president of Manchester Historical Society, with Jan Shurtliff, first vice-president, Edna Knauss and T.V. Ludwig sharing second vice-presidency, Betty Cummings, secretary and Loring Ebersole, treasurer.

John Swainson is immediate past-president. Gail Kellum Curtis and Tom Walton are trustees. The second-vice-presidents are in charge of museum and acquisitions.

JACK MILLER HEADS YHS

Jack Miller is the new president of Ypsilanti Historical Society and Sharon Patterson, vice-president. Secretary and treasurer are appointed. Mrs. Billy Zolkosky and William Ealy will continue in those posts, respectively.

YHS has lost two stalwart members in recent months—LaVerne Howard, immediate past president, and David Gauntlett. Each served three years as president.

DULCIMER WASHTUB BASS MAKE 'JOYOUS NOISE' AT ANNUAL MEETING

"Joyous Noise," a goup featuring a hammer dulcimer from the Paint Creek Folklore Society of Rochester, Michigan, entertained at the WCHS annual meeting with folk and traditional music and a singalong.

"The hammer dulcimer is a very ancient instrument," Dotty Decker, the leader, said. "It is related to what is called a psaltery in the Bible. It is also related to the harpsichord, the predecessor of the piano. The harpsichord was plucked, the piano strikes the strings.

"We use a hammer with leather on one side for a softer sound and wood on the other side."

"This is not the same as a southern Appalachian instrument called a dulcimer. That is a mountain or lap dulcimer. They are much more recent. Every country in the world has some kind of dulcimer-like instrument."

Other instruments included washtub bass, mandolin, autoharp, guitar, and two fiddles. The zither preceded the autoharp, it was noted.

HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to Pauline Walters, 2200 Fuller Road, B-1202, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Information: 663-2379 evenings/weekends.

Annual dues are $10 for individuals, $18 a couple. Senior individual (60) dues are $8 or senior couple, $14. Sustaining dues are $50, commercial $25, and student $5. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify as seniors.

PATRICK OWEN HEADS WCHS SLATE IN 1988-89

Patrick Owen, a local restoration artisan or housewright who served an apprenticeship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was elected president of WCHS for 1988-89.

Esther Warzynski was re-elected vice-president and Robert Edwin Miller, treasurer. Alan Jones is recording secretary, Lucy Kooperman corresponding secretary and Carol Freeman, assistant cooresponding secretary.

Directors serving to June 1991 will be Elizabeth Dusseau, Lucille Fisher, Sally Kelley-Owen and Alice Ziegler. Louisa Pieper will fill a vacancy to June 1989. Susan Wineberg and Sabra Briere will fill vacancies to June 1990.

Completing the board roster are Arthur H. French, Nancy Schuon and William Wallach to June 1989, Karen O'Neal and Marilou Warner to June 1990, and directors-at-large (to June 1989), Rosemarion Blake, Yvonne Blotner, Mary Jo Gord, Mary Jo Wholihan and Lawrence Ziegler.

Owen, worked in New York on restorations of Gracie Mansion, the New York City mayor's residence, and Lyndhurst estate and has done projects at the Soo and Ludington as well as locally.

He and his wife, Sally, a real estate broker, have collaborated on photographic articles for *Michigan History* and the *Chronicle.*

Jones, the new recording secretary, is an editor with Prakken Publications and active on the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. Other new faces are Briere, Kempf House Board secretary, and Wineberg, an independent researcher of Ann Arbor history in her spare time.

MISS WILD GAVE $1,000

Miss Helen H. Wild, a longtime member of WCHS who died last February 8, left the Society $1,000 in her will. A lifelong Ann Arbor resident, she was a librarian in the UM School of Public health for 40 years.

FALL FESTIVAL SET

The Cobblestone Farm Association Fall Festival was postponed from September 25 to October 29, 1-5 p.m. at the farm, 2781 Packard Road to be held in conjunction with a Halloween in the Park program 2-5 p.m. that day.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:
DEPOT, CAMPAIGN BUTTONS, 150-YEAR OLD LIBRARY, CENTENNIAL FARMS

Chelsea Historical Society: One side of the depot is almost ready to occupy. The Society plans to meet there at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 10.

They are taking orders at 475-7558 for historical calendars ($5.95), Christmas cards (12 for $5) and framed prints ($25) of the restored depot. The calendar, a joint project with other societies, includes drawings of other buildings around the county.

Dexter Society: Annual tree-trimming potluck, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17, at museum, 3443 Inverness. Weekly bazaar workshops, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

Charles and Rose Van Aken's political campaign memorabilia collection on display through November. Museum open 1-3 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays. Regular business meetings 7:30 p.m. first Thursdays at museum.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. October 17, at blacksmith shop, 324 East Main. Wystan Stevens of Ann Arbor will talk about postcard collecting.

A state of Michigan marker was erected this summer in front of the Manchester Township Library which the Society believes is the oldest township library in Michigan, dating from 1838. It is now housed in the circa 1880's Dr. James Lynch house on Main Street. The sign tells library history on one side and house history on the other.

Manchester has been designated a Bicentennial Community and plans to promote celebration of the 200th anniversary of the U.S. constitution and establishment of our government under it through 1991.

They recently raffled a red-white-and-blue quilt with "We the people" logo in the center and names of 200 local persons. The $1,000-plus proceeds will be given to the library for special projects.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Out of the blue, some factory workers from across the road came and helped the Society with the big job of scraping and preparation this summer to paint the house. The society hopes to get the painting done this fall.

After recently hearing Taylor Jacobsen talk about the Saline Mill he is restoring the Society planned a visit September 28.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. Sunday, November 6, at Pittsfield Township Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads. The Society was invited to place part of its Pittsfield transportation history exhibit at Whitehall Convalescent Home recently. It was assembled for PHS's July history day. Besides roads and interurban they had two railroads and two airports.

Salem Society: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 27, at former Congregational Church, 7961 Dickerson Street. Quilt show and tell after potluck dinner. Steve Roberts will talk at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17, about "Salem Bible Church," the village's other church, formerly the Federated Church.

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Thursday at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Program on centennial farms for October, barns in November.

Ypsilanti Society: Craft show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, October 15, at the museum, which is open to the public free of charge. Eight to ten craft persons are expected to demonstrate lace, basket-making, quilting etc.

The museum, 220 North Huron, is also open 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday and has some different furniture on exhibit.

RONALD KAPP TO SPEAK

Ronald Kapp, professor at Alma College who grew up in Washtenaw County, will speak on "Genealogy Makes You A Part of History," at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 23, in Lecture Hall II, Liberal Arts and Science Building, Washtenaw Community College.

The Genealogy Society business meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Following Kapp's talk, Carolyn L. Griffin, English teacher at Ypsilanti High School, will talke about "How to Prepare an Oral History."

TABLE SAW DONATED

A five-foot high maple and oak antique foot-powered jig saw, made 1870-80, has been given to WCHS by Richard Crandall of Ypsilanti.

It has a cutting table, flywheel and foot treadle device, is in mint original condition and working. It is on loan to Dexter Museum where it may be seen.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2:00 p.m. Sunday
October 16, 1988

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